

U.S. Serial No.: 10/699,258
Reply to Office Action of: 03/06/2007
Family Number/Atty. Docket No.: P2003J087 / JCW-0306

Page 2 of 16

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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for kinetically separating a light hydrocarbon mixture comprising at least two components by preferentially adsorbing a first component on a zeolite adsorbent comprising 8-member rings of tetrahedra as the pore opening controlling hydrocarbon diffusion, wherein the zeolite adsorbent has been dealuminated and contains alkali metal cations balancing a framework charge, wherein a second component is not preferentially adsorbed, the process comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the light hydrocarbon mixture with the zeolite adsorbent having a $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio greater than about ~~50~~ 80 and less than ~~200~~ 180 and having a diffusion rate at least 50 times greater for the first component as compared to the second component; and

(b) recovering at least one of the first component and the second component.

2. (previously amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the zeolite adsorbent is of a CHA structure.

3. (original) The process of claim 2 wherein the zeolite adsorbent is SSZ-13.

4. (canceled)

5. (presently amended) The process of claim [4] 1 wherein the dealuminating step comprises steaming the zeolite adsorbent.

6. (original) The process of claim 5 wherein the steaming step is performed at a temperature between about 923 K and about 1123 K and a water pressure between about 5 kPa and about 202 kPa.

U.S. Serial No.: 10/699,258

Page 3 of 16

Reply to Office Action of: 03/06/2007

Family Number/Atty. Docket No.: P2003J087 / JCW-0306

7. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal cations are introduced by ion exchange at a pH greater than about 7.5.

8. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the cations are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium and cesium.

9. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the first component comprises propylene and the second component comprises propane.